

Bishops' allegation

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

Zimbabwe police stepped up harassment and torture of political activists during this year's cricket World Cup despite promising to permit peaceful protests, senior church leaders said on Thursday.

Africa, saying Zimbabwean authorities had agreed to allow peaceful protests within the limits of the country's strict security laws. Zimbabwe police charged a total of 42 people under those laws after the demonstrators displayed posters critical of President Robert Mugabe during a February 28 match between Zimbabwe and the Netherlands in Bulawayo.

Opposition groups and human rights activists have charged Mugabe's government with harassment and repression as the country sinks into its worst political and economic crisis since independence in 1980. The government on Wednesday escaped censure by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights after African countries blocked a European Union bid to condemn it for allegedly permitting "numerous cases of assault and torture in a climate of impunity".



West Indies captain Brian Lara having fun with a young fan before he and other members of the team played a soccer match against a local team in Port of Spain in Trinidad on April 15. The West Indies meet Australia in the second Test at Queen's Park Oval from Saturday.

Indo-Pak summit planned

Cricket

AFP, New Delhi

Cricket chiefs from India and Pakistan will meet in Dubai early next month to resolve the impasse arising out of the Indian government's refusal to sanction bilateral series against Pakistan. Indian cricket supremo Jagmohan Dalmiya and his Pakistani counterpart Tauqir Zia will meet on the sidelines of the Asian Cricket Foundation session in Dubai on May 3 to ensure the deadlock between the arch-rivals did not ruin Asian cricket.

The two sides met in the recent World Cup in South Africa on March 1, a match that passed off without incident and raised hopes that bilateral Test series may finally take place. India have not played a Test match in Pakistan since 1989, while Pakistan played three Tests in India in 1999-2000 despite threats from Hindu fundamentalists to disrupt the tour.

Even though India should have visited us after the World Cup, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) made the Bangladesh commitment well over a year ago," Zia was quoted as saying. "How do you expect us to react? What do I tell people in Pakistan?"

Magura cricket

Faruq Smriti Sangha defeated Young Star Club by seven wickets in the Econo Cricket League at the Magura Stadium yesterday. Batting first Young Star made 116 all out in 25.4 overs.

Warne decision to be delayed

Cricket

AFP, Sydney

Disgraced Australian cricketer Shane Warne will have to wait a little longer to learn whether he is allowed to play in English charity matches.

Policy cannot play in any organised cricket games, including charity and testimonial games," the board said in a statement released late Wednesday.

Myanmar U-23 booters in city

The Myanmar Under-23 football team arrived in the capital on Wednesday to play their return-leg Athens Olympic preliminary round clash against Bangladesh. The match will be held at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium in Mirpur tomorrow. Bangladesh lost the first leg 0-3 in Yangon last week.

The ACA interpretation is that suspended players can play in bonafide charity and testimonial games." Warne has received an offer to play for Lashings, an English charity side, during his suspension.

The board also ruled on several other issues surrounding Warne's suspension, allowing him to train with state and national sides while he is suspended.

An Eng innovation

Cricket

Reuters, London

A 20-overs-a-side competition aimed at increasing interest in the new English county cricket season, which starts on Friday, is to be launched in June.

minutes with matches played at convenient late afternoon times to make cricket watching more accessible for both school children and office workers alike.

Selection gone

FROM PAGE 13

situations that the born-fighter from Rajshahi showed his true character. Mashud's treatment was just another one of Aliul's idiosyncrasies. He made as many as three changes in the second match against South Africa.

The selectors showed their lack of wisdom by wanting to pick more seamers on traditionally docile tracks. Now they are desperately searching for spinners ahead of the Test series against South Africa.

Curtains

FROM PAGE 13 The Wizards' top executive. He was back on the court 18 months later. "Now I don't want to play. It's time to move on," he said. "Physically I can feel it. I'm still competitive mentally, but I've given everything physically."



- BTV India vs South Africa TVS Cup Tri-Series Live at 2:00 pm ESPN Primera Liga Barcelona vs Deportivo Repeat at 3:00 pm English Premier Football League Tottenham Hotspur vs Man City Live at 7:55 pm Sportscentre Hindi Sport News Live at 10:00 pm STAR Sports India vs South Africa TVS Cup Tri-Series Live at 2:00 pm Sportsline Tonight Sport News Live at 10:30 pm

Henin-Hardenne on course

AFP, Amelia Island

Top seed Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium received an award for her charitable work Wednesday, then made short work of Madagascar's Dally Randriantefy at the Bausch and Lomb Championships.



Italian Filippo Volandri celebrates after defeating Swedish Magnus Norman in the Monte Carlo Masters Series yesterday.

No more Magnus magic

Tennis

AFP, Monaco

Magnus Norman was unable to produce the magic which saw off Gustavo Kuerten as he slid out of the Monte Carlo Masters Series here on Thursday, Italian Filippo Volandri scoring a 7-5, 6-3 victory to reach the quarterfinals.

year-old from Livorno, who is now hoping to become the first Italian champion here since Nicola Pietrangeli in 1968. Should he manage that he would then be dreaming of emulating compatriot Adriano Panatta, who won the French Open at Roland Garros in 1976.

two match points before a crunching forehand set up a third opportunity. Volandri, clad Lleyton Hewitt-style in a baseball cap worn back to front, accepted that one when Norman netted a forehand after 1hr 19min.

Wants to be

FROM PAGE 13 Carlton Bough of Jamaica is due to make his test debut in the same match to replace Ridley Jacobs, who is out of action with a torn muscle he suffered during the first test in Guyana.

Hussain stays Test captain

Reuters, London

Nasser Hussain has been confirmed as England's Test captain for the home series against Zimbabwe and South Africa, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Thursday.

West Indies suffered a crushing nine-wicket defeat in the first test which ended on Sunday. The second test starts at the Queen's Park Oval in Port of Spain on Saturday.

Hussain's successor as England's one-day skipper will not be named until later this month. Hussain stood down from the job six weeks ago following the team's first-round elimination from the World Cup.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution time: 26 mins. Includes words like 'FLOVE', 'COW', 'OFF', 'LAVA', 'OBIT', 'OLEO', 'AVER', 'MOSQUITO', 'TENNIS', 'JOKER', 'LIT', 'ELOPE', 'KATYDID', 'LEE', 'PIEGE', 'ETIA', 'FIREBELLY', 'PIETTY', 'UN', 'ROY', 'COD', 'WRONG', 'CRICKET', 'HONORABLE', 'ANITA', 'TWO', 'TWO', 'ENT', 'PEST', 'NEO', 'DEAD', 'DOWN', '1 Frighten e.g.', '2 Eastern princess', '3 Alphabetically, last state capital', '4 River of forgetfulness', '5 Senator Hatch', '6 a-b-rac', '7 Rival rival', '8 Line-men's team-mates', '9 "Thanks for -"', '10 CA hrs.', '12 "Home Alone" boy', '14 Acceptable', '15 Bottom line', '19 Drenched', '20 Pack quantity', '21 Sailboat spar', '22 Couturier', '23 Actor Baldwin', '24 Its capital is Maseru', '25 "Help!", '26 100 percent', '28 Intimidated', '29 Ogler's looks', '30 Tier', '31 Venus' lack', '32 JFK predecessor', '34 Exploding star', '35 Horse's halter?'

Cryptogram puzzle with grid and solution: U Q A V O W U V R A P Y V A U ; P G U F B G R Y N V C H R N P C H Y N A V C ; H F V U B G A B P U I Y H U W W C ; U " I V B X A U V B O A V " ; Yesterdays' Cryptquip: I ASKED THE BANKE TO CHECK MY BALANCE SO SHE POLITELY REACHED OUT AND PUSHED ME. Today's Cryptquip Clue: P equals S

Star Whizz Kid Competition 192. Win attractive prizes. Competition closes at 8 pm April 25, 2003 and draw shortly afterwards. Includes a list of winners for various categories.